



# The Ruskin Update

March, 2007  
Volume 3 Issue 2

## Wiggys Sivertsen Named Woman of the Year

Assemblymember Ira Ruskin and the California State Assembly honored Wiggys Sivertsen of Los Gatos as “Woman of the Year” for Assembly District 21. Special ceremonies were conducted on the Assembly and Senate Floors on Monday, March 5, 2007, to recognize “Women of the Year” from every Assembly and Senate district in the state.

In 1984, Wiggys Sivertsen was one of the founding members of the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC), the only political action committee (PAC) dedicated to advocating for the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties. She also is involved in many community organizations including: Board Member, Santa Clara County AIDS/KS Foundation, past Chair, Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women, and Public Relations Chair, City of San Jose Domestic



Violence Committee.

“Ms. Sivertsen has dedicated her life to fighting for civil rights for the LGBT community. By founding the pioneering civil rights organization BAYMEC, working on city and county commissions to prevent domestic violence and counseling students at San Jose State University, Wiggys has made a monumental difference in our community,” Ruskin stated.

## Ruskin Introduces Clean Car Discount Act

Assemblymember Ira Ruskin introduced “The Clean Car Discount Act of 2007” (AB 493) to reduce harmful global warming and smog-forming pollution from cars and trucks by establishing an innovative program to make cleaner cars and trucks more affordable. This program is a market-based solution that will provide one time rebates on purchases of new vehicles that are cleaner. The rebates are funded by one-time surcharges on new vehicles with higher emissions of global warming pollution. AB 493 is sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and strongly supported by major environmental and consumer groups.

“Since transportation accounts for over 40 percent of global warming emissions in this state, we need effective tools to avert the worst consequences of climate change now,” Ruskin stated. “California has established itself as a leader on greenhouse gas reduction with the passage of AB 32 (The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), yet, we cannot meet AB 32’s global warming mandate without addressing emissions from the vehicles we drive.”

The Clean Car Discount program is designed to

ensure choice by providing that some vehicles of every type will be unaffected or receive a rebate. Over 40 percent of the 1.7 million new vehicles purchased in California each year will be eligible for a rebate, and another 20 percent will not be affected at all. Given the breadth of choice, the Clean Car Discount program will help make cleaner vehicles more affordable for every California family.

“Global warming is an issue of paramount concern. Consumers are demanding that automakers provide cleaner car choices, and they see the Clean Car Discount as an effective market-based way to make that happen,” Ruskin concluded.

## Retire Your Attire

Please join me in supporting Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE) for their 10<sup>th</sup> annual Retire Your Attire Clothing Drive through March 29<sup>th</sup>. Please donate any women’s business clothing items to benefit WEAVE clients who are re-entering the workforce after leaving an abusive environment. Contact my office for more information at (650) 691-2121.